

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the application that is reflected in the Office Action dated December 24, 2003.

Applicant cancels claims 1-15 and adds new claims 16-30.

Claims 16-30 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Art-based Rejections

The Office rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 1-15 of USPN 6,275,485.

Applicant submits that the cancellation of claims 1-15 renders this ground of rejection moot. However, to the extent the Office seeks to apply this ground of rejection to new claims 16-30, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicant submits that new claims 16-30 do not claim the same invention as claims 1-15 of USPN 6,275,485 since new claims 16-30 are broader in scope than claims 1-15 of USPN 6,275,485. New claims 16-30 could be literally infringed without literally infringing claims 1-15 of USPN 6,275,485.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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